

Message Text

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AMCONSUL OPORTO

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS: GARCIA

DOS SANTOS NAMED TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

REF: LISBON 5779 (DTG 241510Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: THE ARMY AUGUST 25 NAMED COL GARCIA DOS SANTOS TO FILL VACANCY ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. SANTOS IS CLOSE TO EANES, AND HIS NOMINATION REINFORCES EANES'S CONTROL OVER THE COUNCIL AND THE ARMED FORCES. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DENOUNCED SPECULATION DESIGNED TO FOSTER INSTABILITY, AND REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO PASS POWERS ON TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED INSTITUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. RC HITS SPECULATION: PRIOR TO AUGUST 25 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

(RC) MEETING, SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO TOLD PRESS THAT RC WAS WORKING FOR GREATER STABILITY AND THE PROGRESSIVE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY MEN IN ORDER TO PASS POLITICAL POWER TO THE FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. SOUSA E CASTRO STATED THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA'S CURRENT MISSION TO INDONESIA IS BEING CARRIED OUT FOR THE PRESIDENT, BUT THAT THIS TRIP WOULD BE THE LAST SUCH MISSION FROM OUTSIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. AT ITS MEETING, THE RC:

- NAMED COL AMADEU GARCIA DOS SANTOS TO THE RC SEAT VACATED BY NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO (REFTEL).
- DENOUNCED SPECULATION REGARDING THE ARMED FORCES, INTENDED TO PREJUDICE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY BY FOSTERING INSTABILITY.
- REJECTED THE ATTEMPT TO PICTURE THINGS AS THEY WERE DURING THE CONSTANT INSTABILITY OF 1975.
- COMMITTED ITSELF TO PASSING ON ALL POWERS TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONALLY SPECIFIED PERIOD, TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND TO FULFILLMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.
- RETURNED FORMER SOUTHERN REGION COMMANDER PEZARAT CORREIA TO HIS PERMANENT RANK OF LTC.

3. PPD AND CDS DEFEND NORTHERN MILITARY: PPD SECRETARY GENERAL SA CARNEIRO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AUGUST 25 INTERVIEW:

- RECENT MILITARY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN FUELED BY PRESS SPECULATION AND INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS OF RC SPOKESMAN SOUSA E CASTRO (REFTEL).
- THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGION HAD EVERY RIGHT TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON THE RC VACANCY.
- THE ATTACKS UNDERWAY AGAINST PIRES VELOSO AND BG CARLOS AZEREDO ARE OFFENSIVE. RECENT DISTURBANCES OF OF STABILITY HAVE EMANATED FROM THE ARMED FORCES; BUT THE ARMED FORCES, UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP KNOW HOW TO DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES AND MAINTAIN THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL MISSION.
- PORTUGAL WILL ONLY BE A FULL DEMOCRACY WHEN POLITICAL POWER IS COMPLETELY CIVILIAN.

AN AUGUST 25 CDS STATEMENT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- SOUSA E CASTRO'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGION HAVE PROVOKED SERIOUS CONCERN.

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- IT IS STRANGE THAT A COUNSELOR SAID TO BE CLOSE TO MELO ANTUNES SHOULD USE LANGUAGE TYPICAL OF THE GONCALVES ERA.
- THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH TRUST THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT PERMIT DESTABILIZATION AND THAT HE WILL GUARANTEE THAT THOSE WHO TOOK OVER THE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION NOT TAKE OVER THE NOVEMBER 25 MOVEMENT.

4. COMMENT: COL GARCIA DOS SANTOS, A COMMUNICATIONS

OFFICER, DIRECTED COMMUNICATIONS BOTH FOR THE APRIL 1974 COUP AND FOR EANES DURING THE NOVEMBER 25, 1975 COUP ATTEMPT. SANTOS SERVED AS STATE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS IN THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. A SOLID PROFESSIONAL, HE WAS RECENTLY NAMED CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD AND IS VERY CLOSE TO EANES. THE DESIGNATION OF SANTOS TO FILL THE RC VACANCY REINFORCES EANES'S CONTROL OF THE RC AND THE ARMED FORCES.

5. THE CURRENT NOISY CONFLICT OVER THE RC REFLECTS WITHDRAWAL PAINS AS THE MILITARY MOVE FROM CENTER STAGE POLITICALLY AND THE RC IS SEPARATED FURTHER FROM THE CHAIN OF MILITARY COMMAND. WE DO NOT SEE IT AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM AT THIS TIME FOR EANES OR THE GOVERNMENT. SA CARNEIRO'S INTERVENTION CALLING FOR A COMPLETE MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICS WILL NOT BE APPRECIATED EVEN BY THOSE MILITARY CLOSE TO THE PPD. CARLUCCI

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